



March 13, 2017

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**Notice of *Ex Parte* Meeting**

Re: *Somos, Inc. Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Registration of Text-Enabled Toll Free Numbers*, WC Docket No. 95-155, WT Docket No. 08-7

Dear Ms. Dortch,

On behalf of the Ad Hoc Telecommunications Users Committee (“Ad Hoc”), the undersigned and Sara Kuehnle, both of Levine, Blaszak, Block & Boothby, LLP, met on Thursday, March 9, 2017 with Alex Espinoza, Daniel Kohn, Kris Monteith, Heather Hendrickson and Ann Stevens of the Wireline Competition Bureau; Pramesh Jobanputra and Matt Warner of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau; and Terry Cavanaugh and Linda Oliver of the Office of General Counsel.

During this meeting, we discussed the information and arguments contained in Ad Hoc’s written *ex parte* presentation filed in the dockets referenced above on March 8, 2017. We reiterated Ad Hoc’s concern that the text-enablement of toll free numbers without the knowledge or participation of the toll free customer’s Responsible Organization (“Resp Org”) or the use of the SMS Database system established by the Commission’s rules creates a substantial risk of consumer fraud and confusion. The SMS Database and the work of the Resp Orgs ensure the integrity of the toll free number system and enable toll free customers to effectively and efficiently manage their toll free numbers. As large businesses that have invested significant resources to use and properly administer their toll free numbers, Ad Hoc members oppose efforts to text-enable toll free numbers without the knowledge of the toll free customer’s Resp Org and the Resp Org’s coordination with the toll free customer’s employees who are responsible for managing toll free numbers.

In addition, we discussed Ad Hoc’s conclusion that a Declaratory Ruling is the appropriate procedural vehicle for the Commission to use when it affirms the meaning of the Commission’s existing rules regarding the management and administration of toll free numbers and the applicability of those rules to parties seeking to text-enable toll free numbers. In accordance with the Commission’s plenary jurisdiction over the North American Numbering plan, those rules govern the administration and management of



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toll free numbers, regardless of how the toll free customer may use those numbers once they are assigned.

Finally, we noted that the fact that text-enabling services do not include (1) Resp Org administration and management of the toll free number and (2) the use of the SMS database currently discourages many enterprise customers from using any text-enabling services whatsoever, in order to avoid the risk of compromising their toll free numbers, e.g., through “smishing” (i.e., SMS phishing) attempts.

Pursuant to the Commission’s rules, this letter has been filed in the above referenced dockets. If you have any questions regarding this submission, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Colleen Boothby'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Colleen Boothby

Counsel, Ad Hoc Telecommunications Users Committee

cc:

Terry Cavanaugh

Alex Espinoza

Heather Hendrickson

Pramesh Jobanputra

Daniel Kohn

Kris Monteith

Linda Oliver

Ann Stevens

Matt Warner